

FALEOMAVAEGA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HOLT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RALPH REGULA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NETHERCUTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), my good friend and colleague.

The gentleman from Ohio has served with distinction for the past 6 years as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior of the Committee on Appropriations. During that time, he has worked tirelessly to make Federal programs work better for the American public. From day one, the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) rolled up his sleeves and got to work identifying critical issues that needed to be addressed, has, throughout his chairmanship, asked tough questions on how the taxpayers' money is being used and how effectively the Federal bureaucracy is working.

The Subcommittee on Interior of the Committee on Appropriations funds all the National Parks, the National Forests, Wildlife Refuges, and public lands in this country. Those lands comprise more than one-third of the land base in this country.

The subcommittee also has funding responsibility for American Indian and Alaskan Native programs, critical energy research, and many cultural programs such as the Smithsonian Institution.

When the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) took over as chairman of the subcommittee in 1995, he immediately focused on targeting critical core programs for funding and eliminating programs that had outlived their usefulness or were duplicative of other efforts. As a result, five agencies were eliminated, and over 50 other programs were terminated.

The gentleman from Ohio has stood by his philosophy that some programs must be done, others are important to do, and still others may be worthy for

consideration to the extent that funds are available.

The gentleman from Ohio's trademark "must do," "need to do" and "nice to do" categorization has continued throughout his tenure as chairman and has made the Interior appropriations bill a balanced and admirable product each year.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) recognized 6 years ago that the agencies funded by the Interior bill were accumulating large maintenance backlogs and that efforts to start new programs and expand existing ones were exacerbating a \$15 billion maintenance backlog program. New programs are politically very popular, and the gentleman from Ohio took a brave stand in holding the line on new programs in order to, in his words, "take care of what we have."

In addition to the annual appropriations process, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) has held an unprecedented 26 oversight hearings to identify long-standing critical program problems and needs and has taken action to fix those problems and those needs.

The gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) has never shied away from controversy. He highlighted major problems with the National Park Service construction program, including a \$1 million rest room construction and a bloated centralized construction bureaucracy that discouraged cost containment and the use of local expertise. He put a stop to the excessive spending and dramatically pared back the Denver Service Center that controlled the construction program.

He held two hearings on the South Florida Restoration Initiative, which deals with restoration of the Everglades, and identified major cost overruns. His efforts uncovered the lack of a strategic plan for this 20-year multi-billion dollar program.

As a direct result of the gentleman from Ohio's scrutiny, this program is being managed more cost effectively, and individual projects are being integrated into a focused long-term strategy.

To address the maintenance backlog on our public lands and in our Federal museums, art galleries and Indian lands, he instituted an aggressive maintenance funding effort and minimized new land acquisitions and new programs in order to pay for this long overdue maintenance initiative.

One of the highlights of his tenure as chairman is his creation of a national recreation fee demonstration program for our parks, forests, wildlife refuges and other public lands. Under that program, the fees that are collected go right back into on-the-ground improvements to provide for visitor safety and enjoyment on our public lands.

To date, over \$500 million in fees have been collected to supplement the increased funding provided through appropriations. These fees have been used for services to benefit visitors to our public lands and to preserve the tax-

payers' investment in these lands for generations to come.

Other tough issues the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) has addressed include critical financial management reform in the Forest Service to correct financial mismanagement in the Forest Service; trust management reform in the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and the need for a coherent and responsive National Energy Strategy that includes cooperation among the Federal Government, industry and the States.

He was ahead of his time on the energy issue. The need for a national energy strategy has been highlighted over the past year as fuel oil and natural gas prices have risen dramatically and certain parts of the country are experiencing electric power shortages.

The staff members of the Subcommittee on Interior have asked me to convey their respect and heartfelt admiration for the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA). They include Debbie Weatherly, Loretta Beaumont, Joel Kaplan, Chris Topik, Angie Perry, Andria Oliver and Steve Glomb. They join me in our beliefs that the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) is a truly great man who stands by his beliefs and has the courage to do the right thing.

As the gentleman from Ohio concludes his 6th year as chairman, the people of this country have much to be grateful for as a direct result of his leadership and tireless efforts on their behalf. I join everyone in this Chamber in giving our great expression of support and admiration for the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. NADLER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

OPPOSING THE SALE OF ATTACK HELICOPTERS TO TURKEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my fierce opposition to the sale of 145 Bell-Textron attack helicopters to Turkey, as planned by the administration.